

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the Application of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY
(U 133 W) for an order authorizing it to increase
rates for water service by \$15,377,000 or 19.34% in
2004; by \$6,642,000 or 6.98% in 2005; and by
\$6,629,700 or 6.51% in 2006 in its Metropolitan
Service Area.

Application 03-10-006
(Filed October 6, 2003)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
REQUIRING MEET AND CONFER ON SCHEDULE
PRIOR TO THE PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

Prehearing Conference

As previously noticed by the calendar clerk, a prehearing conference (PHC) will be held at the Commission Courtroom in San Francisco on:

Monday, November 24, 2003, 10:00 a.m.

Meet and Confer re: Schedule

Prior to the PHC, representatives of both parties are directed to meet and confer in an effort to develop a joint, proposed schedule for this proceeding. I have not seen the schedule proposed by Southern California Water Company, but note that the Application states, in the section entitled "2003 Filing Compliance," that one has been included with the workpapers. I have reviewed the schedule proposed by the Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA) and see several problems with it. First, my calendar will not permit evidentiary hearings in the month of April 2004 until April 27, 2004. Second, the ORA schedule

anticipates issuance of a proposed decision three weeks after the filing of reply briefs. Because successful balancing of competing workload demands flexibility, I cannot endorse a schedule that requires me to mail a proposed decision within a time period shorter than the 90-day window established in Pub. Util. Code § 311(d). As ever, I am committed to mail a proposed decision as soon as possible upon submission of the proceeding.

Public Participation Hearings

ORA asks the Commission to hold public participation hearings (PPHs). To facilitate useful discussion of this subject, parties should be prepared to discuss when and where PPHs were last held in the area that encompasses Metropolitan District. Parties should also be prepared to discuss the number and location of PPHs desired in connection with this Application.

Other Issues

Parties should ensure that one or more authorized representatives attend the PHC and that such representatives are generally familiar with the Application so as to permit useful discussion of any other substantive or procedural issues that may be raised.

IT IS RULED that:

1. Prior to the prehearing conference, the parties shall meet and confer to devise a joint, proposed schedule that addresses the problems outlined in the body of this ruling.
2. Parties shall be prepared to discuss public participation hearing issues identified in the body of this ruling.

Dated November 19, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ JEAN VIETH

Jean Vieth
Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Requiring Meet and Confer on Schedule Prior to the Prehearing Conference on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated November 19, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ ELIZABETH LEWIS
Elizabeth Lewis

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at

A.03-10-006 XJV/hl2

(415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.